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Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled, 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 107 at its 13th to 17th meetings, on 6, 9 and 10 October 2000, and took action on the item at its 37th meeting, on 26 October. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/55/SR.13-17 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (A/55/341);

(b) Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/55/4).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 6 October, a statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

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5. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

6. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

7. Also at the 13th meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of INSTRAW and the Deputy Director of UNIFEM responded to questions raised by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.3/55/SR.13).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.28

8. At the 37th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of the Chairperson, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/55/L.28), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.28 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 51/69 of 12 December 1996, 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 53/120 of 9 December 1998 and 54/141 of 17 December 1999,

Welcoming the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the

* The outcome of the twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", is contained in chapter III of document A/S-23/10/Rev.1 and comprises the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action".

twenty-first century", namely the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",[1]

Stressing the importance of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which has assessed the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action,[3] identified obstacles and challenges thereto and proposed actions and initiatives to overcome them and achieve its full and accelerated implementation,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels in order to achieve full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments contained in the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] and on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[5]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system within their respective mandates and all other relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), chap. III.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/55/293.

[5] A/55/341.

the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as elaborated in the above-mentioned documents;

4. *Also calls upon* Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to facilitate the translation and dissemination of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as broadly and as accessibly as possible;

5. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

6. *Further reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

7. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to promote a coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, and requests the Economic and Social Council to further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council;[6]

8. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to further policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering the dedication of specific segments to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work;

9. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to build up a database to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

10. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role assisting the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, assessing progress made and accelerating, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in advising the Council thereon;

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

11. *Notes* that at its forty-fifth session, in 2001, the Commission on the Status of Women will develop a new multi-year programme of work, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission with recommendations for the effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through enhancing the effectiveness of its work and its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities;

12. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

13. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

14. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance;

15. *Reaffirms* that in order to implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

16. *Reaffirms* that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and through the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

17. *Reaffirming also* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, have an important role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly on the full range of tasks of the Division for the Advancement of Women, including those that might arise from the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and from the entry into force

of the Optional Protocol[7] to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[8] with a view to ensuring that the Division can effectively fulfil its tasks;

19. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training so that they mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

20. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

21. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as widely as possible in all official languages of the United Nations;

23. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

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[7] Resolution 54/4, annex.

[8] Resolution 34/180, annex.